

REMARKS

Applicants thank Examiner Joynes and Supervisory Examiner Page for courtesies extended during the telephonic interview of April 28, 2003 and the suggestions of May 6, 2003.

During the interview of April 28, 2003, applicants, represented by Dr. Stephen Bartels, Denis Polyn and the undersigned, discussed each of the issues raised in the Advisory Action of April 14, 2003. Applicants briefly provided an overview of each of the cited prior art references with regard to the patentability of the subject claims, as was provided in applicants' earlier responses.

Explanation was presented regarding the relationship of the zinc and copper components of the claimed composition, directing the Examiners' attention to pages 17 and 18, paragraphs 33 and 34 of the specification and pages 1418-1420 and 1432 of AREDS Report 8. Also discussed was the AREDS Report of the NEI study that describes the beneficial results achieved through the use of the claimed composition of vitamins A, E, C, zinc and copper. The AREDS Report also shows that the independent use of the combination of vitamins A, E and C and the independent use of the combination of zinc and copper, each were ineffective combinations. No agreement was reached during the interview.

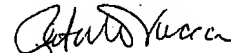
In accordance with the Examiners' suggestions of May 6, 2003, applicants herein cancel without prejudice claims 3 through 5, and claims 23 and 24, which depend therefrom. The Office raised issues with regard to the "prevent" or "preventing" language in these claims. Applicants have elected to cancel the claims and prosecute the same in a continuation application. When the continuation application is filed, the language "amount of copper in relationship to zinc being in an amount sufficient to eliminate potential zinc induced anemia" will

be added to each of these method claims and the language "safely and effectively" will be deleted from each of these method claims as suggested by the Office. Claims 10 and 17 have been canceled, without prejudice, and rewritten in independent form, now re-presented as claims 26 through 28.

Based on the above arguments and amendments to the claims, claims 1, 2, 6-22 and 25-28 are believed to be patentable. Allowance of claims 1, 2, 6-22 and 25-28 is thereby respectfully requested.

Should there be any questions regarding this communication, please feel free to contact the undersigned at (636) 226-3340.

Respectfully submitted,



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